

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

[The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.]

1. (Currently Amended) A method for submission of a media collection from a client machine to a media distribution server machine site, said method comprising:

obtaining metadata for a media collection;

identifying media content for a plurality of media items to be included in the media collection, the media content being imported from a media source, each of the media items including a different audio track;

converting the identified media content for the plurality of media items into compressed media files, said converting encodes the media content for each of the media items into a compressed audio format;

obtaining metadata for the identified media content;

forming, at the client machine, an electronic package of the media collection, the electronic package including at least the compressed media files and the metadata associated with the media collection and the identified media content; and

thereafter electronically transmitting the electronic package from the client machine to the media distribution server machine site, thereby submitting the media collection to the media distribution server machine site for subsequent distribution,

wherein the electronic package of the media collection comprises a plurality of electronic files, one of the electronic files is a markup language file containing at least the metadata, another of the files is an image file for artwork associated with the media collection, and a plurality of other of the files are compressed audio files,

wherein the metadata provided for the media collection includes at least media collection metadata as well as media item metadata, the media item metadata being provided for each of the media items within the media collection, and

wherein the electronic package further includes a digital signature for each of the compressed audio files, and includes a digital signature for the image file.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the media collection obtained includes at least descriptive media collection information.
3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the descriptive media collection information includes, for the media collection, at least a title, an artist, a genre, a label name, copyright information, release information, and a numerical identifier.
4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the descriptive media collection information further includes an image to be used as artwork for the media collection.
5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the media collection is entered by a user.
6. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the audio tracks included in the media collection pertain to songs, and
wherein said converting encodes the media content for each of the songs into a compressed audio format.
7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the compressed audio format is MPEG based.
8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the compressed audio format is MPEG4 based.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the compressed audio format is Advanced Audio Coding (AAC).

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the compressed audio format is MP4, M4 or M4a.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the media items is a multimedia item.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the identified media content includes at least descriptive media item information for each of the media items of the identified media content.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the descriptive media item information includes, for the corresponding media item, at least a title, an artist, a genre, track number, a label name, copyright information, and a numerical identifier.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the descriptive media item information further includes an indication as to whether the identified media content is available for sale.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the descriptive media item information further includes a parental advisory.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the identified media content is entered by a user.

17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a first portion of the metadata for the identified media content is obtained from the metadata for the media collection.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a second portion of the metadata for the identified media content is entered by a user.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the identified media content includes an indication as to whether the identified media content is available for sale.

20. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the imported media content includes a parental advisory.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the digital signature ~~for the electronic package of the media collection comprises a folder of files, one of the files is a markup language file containing at least the metadata, another of the files is an image file for artwork associated with the media collection is a MD5 message digest, and a plurality of other of the files are~~ wherein the digital signatures for the compressed audio files are MD5 message digests.

22. (Original) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the markup language file is an XML file, the image file is a JPEG file, and the compressed audio files are MPEG4 based.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said transmitting operates to electronically transmit the electronic package to the media distribution server machine site over the Internet using encryption.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving the electronic package at the media distribution server machine site;

parsing the electronic package to retrieve components from the electronic package, the components including at least the identified media content in the compressed media format, the metadata for the media collection and the metadata for the at least one media item; and

storing the components into a media distribution database.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein said method further comprises:

rendering the media collection and the media items thereof available for online purchase at the media distribution server machine site.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

rendering the media collection and the media items thereof available for online purchase at the media distribution server machine site.

27. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method is performed by an application program.

28. (Original) A method as recited in claim 27, wherein, when the application program performs said obtaining of the metadata for the media collection and said obtaining of the metadata for the identified media content, a user interacts with the application program.

29. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the user is a representative for an independent recording label, and wherein said application program facilitates the independent recording label in submission of the media collection to the media distribution server machine site for subsequent online distribution.

30. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said transmitting is from the [[a]] client machine to the media distribution server machine site, and wherein said transmitting comprises:

receiving a submission input from a user of the client machine;

determining, based on the submission input, whether the electronic package should be transmitted or queued;

queuing the electronic package when said determining determines that the electronic package should be queued; and

transmitting the electronic package to the media distribution server machine site when said determining determines that the electronic package should be transmitted.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including at least computer program code for submission of a media collection to a media distribution site, said computer readable storage medium comprising:

computer program code for identifying media content for a plurality of media items to be included in the media collection, the media content being imported from a media source, each of the media items including a different audio track;

computer program code for converting the identified media content for the plurality of media items into compressed media files, said computer program code for converting encodes the media content for each of the media items into a compressed audio format;

computer program code for obtaining metadata for the identified media content;

computer program code for forming an electronic package of the media collection, the electronic package including at least the compressed media files and the metadata associated with the identified media content; and

computer program code for electronically transmitting the electronic package to the media distribution site, thereby submitting the media collection to the media distribution site for subsequent distribution,

wherein the electronic package of the media collection comprises a plurality of electronic files, one of the electronic files is a markup language file containing at least the metadata, another of the files is an image file for artwork associated with the media collection, and a plurality of other of the files are compressed audio files,

wherein the metadata provided for the media collection includes at least media collection metadata as well as media item metadata, the media item metadata being provided for each of the media items within the media collection, and

wherein the electronic package further includes a digital signature for each of the compressed audio files, and includes a digital signature for the image file.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the electronic package is comprises a folder having a including the plurality of electronic files.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer code for identifying the media content operates to assist a user in identifying the media content.

35. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the media source is a compact disc.

36. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the metadata is provided by a user.

37. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 36, wherein the metadata for the identified media content includes an indication as to whether the identified media content is available for sale.

38. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the metadata for the identified media content includes a parental advisory indication.

39. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the media distribution site is an online media distribution site.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer program code for electronically transmitting operates to electronically transmit the electronic package to the media distribution site over the Internet using encryption.

41. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31,

wherein the metadata identifies artwork associated with the media collection or the identified media content, and

wherein the digital signature for the electronic package of the media collection comprises a folder of files, one of the files is an markup language file containing at least the metadata, another of the files is an image file is a MD5 message digest for the

~~artwork, and a plurality of other files are wherein the digest signatures for the compressed media files are MD5 message digests.~~

42. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the markup language file is an XML file, the image file is a JPEG file, and the compressed media files are MPEG4 based.

43. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer program code for transmitting transmits the electronic package from a client machine to the media distribution site, and wherein said computer program code for electronically transmitting comprises:

computer program code for receiving a submission input from a user of the client machine;

computer program code for determining whether the electronic package should be transmitted or queued based on the submission input;

computer program code for queuing the electronic package when said computer program code for determining determines that the electronic package should be queued; and

computer program code for transmitting the electronic package to the media distribution site when said computer program code for determining determines that the electronic package should be transmitted.

44. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 43, wherein said computer program code for electronically transmitting further comprises:

computer program code for encrypting at least a portion of the electronic package prior to transmission to the media distribution site.

45. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer readable storage medium further comprises:

computer program code for rendering the media collection and the media items thereof available for online purchase at the media distribution site.

46. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer readable storage medium facilitates an independent recording label with submission of the media collection to the media distribution site for subsequent online distribution.

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Cancelled).

49. (Cancelled).

50. (Currently Amended) A method for submission of a media collection from a client machine to a media distribution site, the client machine configured for operation by a user, said method comprising:

receiving, at the client machine, metadata for a media collection;

identifying, at the client machine, media content for a plurality of media items to be included in the media collection, the media content being imported from a media source, each of the media items including a different audio track;

converting, at the client machine, the identified media content for the plurality of media items into compressed media files, said converting encodes the media content for each of the media items into a compressed audio format;

receiving, at the client machine, metadata for the identified media content;

forming, at the client machine, an electronic package of the media collection, the electronic package including at least the compressed media files and the metadata associated with the media collection and the identified media content; and

thereafter electronically transmitting the electronic package from the client machine to the media distribution site, thereby submitting the media collection to the media distribution site for subsequent distribution,

wherein the electronic package of the media collection comprises a folder of files, one of the files is a markup language file containing at least the metadata, another of the files is an image file for artwork associated with the media collection, and a plurality of other of the files are compressed audio files,

wherein the electronic package of the media collection comprises a folder of electronic files, one of the electronic files is a markup language file containing at least the metadata, another of the files is an image file for artwork associated with the media collection, and a plurality of other of the files are compressed audio files,

wherein the metadata provided for the media collection includes at least media collection metadata as well as media item metadata, the media item metadata being provided for each of the media items within the media collection, and

wherein the electronic package further includes a digital signature for each of the compressed audio files, and includes a digital signature for the image file.